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### Sound choice for the CIA

President Carter's new choice for Director of Central Intelligence hits the mark in both a professional and political sense. Adm. Stansfield Turner, who rose from Navy ensign to become commander of allied forces in southern Europe, has obviously demonstrated high competence as a manager of men and organizations. The former Rhodes Scholar and president of the Naval War College is also a person of thoughtful, innovative bent. These are qualifications much needed as the Central Intelligence Agency is refurbished to play its proper and valuable role.

In fact our only reservation about Admiral Turner's appointment is that it deprives the military of an officer of uncommon ability. And the military needs such. Nonetheless the CIA job is important too. Questions have arisen about putting a military man in the post, but Turner has a reputation as one of the Navy's most independent-minded officers.

This time around President Carter should have no problems politically, as he did with Ted Sorensen. There already are indications Admiral Turner will pass muster in the Senate with relative ease. His naval experience and commitment to the nation's strong defense should make him acceptable to conservatives. His balanced, scholarly approach to military affairs should please liberals.

In actual fact Admiral Turner does not strike us as ideological one way or the other. From his writings there emerges a sober, practical view of Soviet naval capabilities and of what the United States must do to meet the growing Soviet challenge. In a recent article in Foreign Affairs, for instance, he points out the futility of measuring defense strength in numbers and engaging in the argument of "Who's ahead?" Rather, he maintains, the U.S. must look at what its missions are and determine whether it has the proper types and mix of weaponry to carry them out.

This kind of objective analysis is essential in intelligence assessment. It gives reason to think Admiral Turner will not let his military background interfere with the broader perspective required in the CIA post. In sum, given his record and expertise, Admiral Turner appears well suited to take on this new assignment.